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June 28, 2011

Hon. Rick Jones, State Senator and Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

Senate Bill 504
Testimony

Cannabis Patients United opposes this bill and urges you to join us with your vote against reporting it out of this committee.

This bill would restrict the transfer of medical marihuana to a registered patient in several ways. The *Lansing State Journal*, in its editorial on Sunday, June 24, 2011, made our opposing argument for us, in the context of community concern, but says that this kind of restriction "rings less true, given that some pharmacies are within that range of such locations, without any such restrictions. Prescription drugs, after all, are a growing category of drug abuse and illicit drug sales, yet there is no effort to force pharmacies to move" to avoid these restricted locations.

There has been some church objection to allowing commercial storefronts to operate nearby, but you propose restricting any transfer to 1,000 feet from a church, among other institutions. Yet, many churches supported the voter initiative. Some of them are the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), United Methodist Church, Union for Reform Judaism, Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ and many others (a complete list is available). We hope that you will consider the differences among churches and the different kinds of transfer. They are vastly disparate.

Thank you.